AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 11, 21, 31, 41 and 51. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A robot system, comprising:

a robot that has a camera and a monitor;

a first remote station that can access and control said robot; and,

a second remote station that can access and control said robot independently of said first remote station and includes an arbitrator that can control access and control of ~~to~~ said robot by said first and second remote stations.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said arbitrator includes a notification mechanism.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said arbitrator includes a timeout mechanism.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said arbitrator includes a queue mechanism.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said arbitrator includes a call back mechanism.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said second remote station can access said robot, and said first and second remote stations each have a priority and said arbitrator provides robot access to said remote station with a highest priority.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein said remote stations may be given priority as a local user, a doctor, a caregiver, a family member, or a service user.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said robot operates in either an exclusive mode or a sharing mode.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said first remote station transmits a communication for said robot that is initially transmitted to said second remote station.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said first remote station sends a communication for said robot that is initially transmitted to said robot.

11. (Currently Amended) A robot system, comprising:

a robot that has a camera and a monitor;

a first remote station that can access and control said robot; and,

a second remote station that can access and control said robot independently of said first remote station and includes arbitration means for controlling access and control of ~~to~~ said robot by said first and second remote stations.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said arbitrator means includes notification means for notifying said first remote station that said second remote station is requesting access to said robot.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said arbitrator means includes timeout means that creates a time interval in which one of said remote stations must relinquish access to said robot.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said arbitrator means includes queue means for establishing a waiting list of remote stations seeking access to said robot.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said arbitrator means includes call back means for providing a message to one of said remote stations that said robot can be accessed.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said second remote station can access said robot, and said first and second remote stations each have a priority and said arbitrator means provides robot access to said remote station with a highest priority.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16, wherein said remote stations may be given priority as a local user, a doctor, a caregiver, a family member, or a service user.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said robot operates in either an exclusive mode or a sharing mode.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said first remote station transmits a communication for said robot that is initially transmitted to said second remote station.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said first remote station sends a communication for said robot that is initially transmitted to said robot.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling access to a remote controlled robot, comprising:

transmitting a request to access and control a robot from a first remote station;

determining whether the first remote station should have access and control of ~~to~~ the robot at a second remote station that can access the robot;

allowing access and control of ~~to~~ the robot;

transmitting video images between the robot and the first remote station;

terminating access to the robot by the first remote station;

transmitting a request to access and control the robot from the second station independently of the first remote station; and,

allowing access and control of ~~to~~ the robot by the second remote station.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising requesting access to the robot from the second remote station and notifying the first remote station of the request.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the second remote station creates a time interval in which the first remote station must relinquish access to the robot.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the request from the second remote station is placed in a waiting list queue.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising transmitting a call back message from the second remote station to the first remote station to indicate the granting of access to the robot.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the access request includes a priority that is evaluated by the second remote station to determine access to the robot.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the remote stations may be given priority as a local user, a doctor, a caregiver, a family member, or a service user.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the robot operates in either an exclusive mode or a sharing mode.

29. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the access request is initially transmitted to the second remote station.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the access request is initially transmitted to the robot.

31. (Currently Amended) A robot system, comprising:

a broadband network;

a robot that is coupled to said broadband network, and has a camera and a monitor;

a first remote station that can access and control said robot through said broadband network; and,

a second remote station that can access and control said robot independently of said first remote station and includes an arbitrator that can control access and control of ~~to~~ said robot by said first and second remote stations.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said arbitrator includes a notification mechanism.

33. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said arbitrator includes a timeout mechanism.

34. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said arbitrator includes a queue mechanism.

35. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said arbitrator includes a call back mechanism.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, wherein said second remote station can access said robot, and said first and second remote stations each have a priority and said arbitrator provides robot access to said remote station with a highest priority.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36, wherein said remote stations may be given priority as a local user, a doctor, a caregiver, a family member, or a service user.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, wherein said robot operates in either an exclusive mode or a sharing mode.

39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, wherein said first remote station transmits a communication for the robot that is initially transmitted to said second remote station.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, wherein said first remote station sends a communication for said ~~r~~obot that is initially transmitted to said robot.

41. (Currently Amended) A robot system, comprising:

a broadband network;

a robot that is coupled to said broadband network, and has a camera and a monitor;

a first remote station that can access and control said robot through said broadband network; and,

a second remote station that can access and control said robot independently of said first remote station and includes arbitration means for controlling access and control of ~~to~~ said robot by said first and second remote stations.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein said arbitrator means includes notification means for notifying said first remote station that said second remote station is requesting access to said robot.

43. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein said arbitrator means includes timeout means that creates a time interval in which one of said remote stations must relinquish access to said robot.

44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein said arbitrator means includes queue means for establishing waiting list of remote stations seeking access to said robot.

45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein said arbitrator means includes call back means for providing a message to one of said remote stations that said robot can be accessed.

46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein said second remote station can access said robot, and said first and second remote stations each have a priority and said arbitrator means provides robot access to said remote station with a highest priority.

47. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46, wherein said remote stations may be given priority as a local user, a doctor, a caregiver, a family member, or a service user.

48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein said robot operates in either an exclusive mode or a sharing mode.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein said first remote station transmits a communication for said robot that is initially transmitted to said second remote station.

50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein said first remote station sends a communication for said robot that is initially transmitted to said robot.

51. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling access to a remote controlled robot, comprising:

transmitting a request to access and control a robot from a first remote station through a broadband network;

determining whether the first remote station should have access and control of ~~to~~ the robot at a second remote station that can access the robot;

allowing access to the robot through the broadband network; ~~and,~~

transmitting video images between the robot and the first remote station between the broadband network;

terminating access and control of ~~to~~ the robot by the first remote station;

transmitting a request to access and control the robot from the second remote station independently of the first remote station; and,

allowing access and control of ~~to~~ the robot by the second remote station.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, further comprising requesting access to the robot from the second remote station and notifying the first remote station of the request.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the second remote station creates a time interval in which the first remote station must relinquish access to the robot.

54. (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein the request from the second remote station is placed in a waiting list queue.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, further comprising transmitting a call back message from the second remote station to the first remote station to indicate the granting of access to the robot.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the access request includes a priority that is evaluated by the second remote station to determine access to the robot.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the remote stations may be given priority as a local user, a doctor, a caregiver, a family member, or a service user.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the robot operates in either an exclusive mode or a sharing mode.

59. (Original) The method of claim 51, wherein the access request is initially transmitted to the second remote station.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the access request is initially transmitted to the robot.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the robot is mobile.

62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said robot is mobile.

63. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein said robot is mobile.

64. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, wherein said robot is mobile.

65. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein said robot is mobile.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the robot is mobile.